

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising:
a nonmagnetic substrate;
an underlying film formed on said nonmagnetic substrate; and
a perpendicular magnetic layer formed on said underlying film,
wherein said underlying film has a layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism, and the magnetization of said layer exhibiting super paramagnetism is not larger than 20 emu/cm^2 when a magnetic field of 796,000 A/m is applied at 300K.

2. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism is formed of particles exhibiting a super paramagnetism of a soft magnetic material.

3. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism has a granular structure having particles exhibiting a super paramagnetism of a soft magnetic material dispersed in a nonmagnetic matrix.

4. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism has a saturation magnetization under the following conditions: applied magnetic field not higher than 3980 A/m in respect of the order of 10^{-8} second corresponding to the magnetic field reversal time of a recording head and the magnetization is not saturated under the following conditions:

the applied magnetic field not higher than 796,000 A/m relative to the order of one second or more.

5. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism exhibits a soft magnetic properties when the temperature is not higher than 10K and exhibits a paramagnetism under ambient temperature conditions.

6. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the magnetization of said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism is not saturated when the temperature is ambient and when the applied magnetic field is not higher than 796,000 A/m, and the layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism has a saturation magnetization when the temperature is not higher than 10K and when the applied magnetic field is not higher than 3980 A/m.

7. (Previously Presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus comprising:

a perpendicular magnetic recording medium;

driving means for supporting and rotating the perpendicular magnetic recording medium;

a magnetic head including an element for recording information in the perpendicular magnetic recording medium and an element for reproducing the recorded information; and

a carriage assembly supporting said magnetic head which is movable relative to the perpendicular magnetic recording medium,

wherein the perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprises:

a nonmagnetic substrate,

an underlying film formed on the nonmagnetic substrate and having a layer exhibiting super paramagnetism, and the magnetization of said layer exhibiting super paramagnetism is not larger than 20 emu/cm^2 when a magnetic field of 796,000 A/m is applied at 300K and a perpendicular magnetic layer formed on the underlying film.

8. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism is formed of particles exhibiting a super paramagnetism of a soft magnetic material.

9. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism has a granular structure having particles exhibiting a super paramagnetism of a soft magnetic material dispersed in a nonmagnetic matrix.

10. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism has a saturation magnetization under the following conditions: the applied magnetic field is not higher than 3980 A/m in respect of the order of 10^{-8} second corresponding to the magnetic field reversal time of a recording head and the magnetization is not saturated under the following conditions: the applied magnetic field is not higher than 796,000 A/m relative to the order of one second or more.

11. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism exhibits

a soft magnetic properties under the temperature not higher than 10K and exhibits a paramagnetism at ambient temperature.

12. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the magnetization of said layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism is not saturated when the temperature is ambient and when the applied magnetic field is not higher than 796,000 A/m, and the layer exhibiting a super paramagnetism has a saturation magnetization when the temperature is not higher than 10K and when the applied magnetic field is not higher than 3980 A/m.

13. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1 wherein said layer exhibiting super paramagnetism contains one soft magnetic material selected from the group consisting of FeTaC, FeZrO, CoFe, NiFe, CoZrNb, FeTaN, and FeZrN.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said fine particles has a particle diameter not larger than 40nm.

16. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 3, wherein said nonmagnetic matrix contains one material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Ti, Ru, C, SiO₂, SiO, Si₃N₄, Al₂O₃, AlN, TiN, BN, CaF and TiC.

17. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said layer exhibiting super paramagnetism contains one soft magnetic material selected from the group consisting of FeTaC, FeZrO, CoFe, NiFe, CoZrNb, FeTaN, and FeZrN.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said ~~fine~~ particles ~~has~~ have a particle diameter not larger than 40nm.

20. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording-reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said nonmagnetic matrix contains one material selected from the group consisting of Ag, Ti, Ru, C, SiO₂, SiO, Si₃N₄, Al₂O₃, AlN, TiN, BN, CaF and TiC.